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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 17, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PERLMUTTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

UPHOLD DIGNITY OF WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, our Nation is facing a growing workforce crisis.

For anyone who is paying attention, the most recent jobs report was incredibly disappointing, but it wasn't a surprise. Nearly everywhere I go across my district in Pennsylvania, I see "help wanted" signs.

Every day, I hear from small businesses that are struggling to hire and

struggling to keep staff. Despite the progress that we are making in our fight against the COVID-19 virus, Democrats are continuing their Big Government, socialist plans. This alarming workforce trend is rooted in the Democrat's scheme to keep paying people to stay at home, and it must end now.

Thanks to American innovation and the success of Operation Warp Speed, our Nation is winning the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Safe vaccines are the key to restoring our personal liberties, eradicating this virus, getting our kids back to school full time, and, yes, getting the American people back to work.

Just like every previous challenge in our history, I know that our Nation has the potential to recover from this pandemic and to recover stronger than ever before. This truly is the American way.

To succeed, we cannot allow President Biden and the Democrats to sabotage our forward momentum. From day one in office, the President has promised Big Government interference that comes with higher taxes and more regulation for American businesses.

Now, in the name of so-called infrastructure reforms, the Biden administration is flaunting job-killing plans that would crush America's and Pennsylvania's robust manufacturing and energy industries.

Mr. Speaker, job-killing schemes and higher taxes are not the answer to the problem that lies in front of us. The dignity of work is a core tenet of our national fabric. This belief has motivated the generations of courageous Americans who built and forged our Nation.

Now it is once again time to get America safely back to work. Alongside President Trump, I worked hard to advance a pro-growth agenda to support the workforce and create American jobs for American workers. We

need to return to these solutions today to secure our success for tomorrow.

American workers are the key to our recovery. They are truly essential. For centuries, hard work has been the key to uplifting families and achieving the American Dream. We cannot allow this longstanding tradition to be lost.

For the sake of our workforce and for our communities, we must uphold the dignity of work. We must support the workforce, and we must get our Nation back on the road to recovery.

RECOGNIZING NORWEGIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norwegian Constitution Day. On May 17, 1814, Norway's Constitution was officially signed, declaring Norway as an independent country.

Mr. Speaker, 207 years later, we remember this important history and join Norwegians around the globe in celebrating its independence.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Norwegian-American community for all the tremendous contributions they make to make America great.

I would also like to recognize my amazing scheduler, Kristine Nichols. She is a proud Norwegian-American who recently obtained her U.S. citizenship. I want Kristine to know that I appreciate all that she does to keep my office running smoothly and, most importantly, to keep me sane every day.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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